(b) what steps are proposed to be taken to increase their production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRIULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) The production of pulses and oilseeds for the last three years is as follows:

Year	Production of Pulses (lakh tonnes)	Production of Oilseeds (lakh tonnes)
1987-88 . .	109·62	126·5
1988-89 . .	137·03	178·9
1989-90 . .	134·00 (anticipated)	171·6

(b) The strategy proposed to increase production of Oilseeds and pulses relates to the area expansion through programmes like multiple-cropping, sequential cropping and inter-cropping. In case of oilseeds, it is area expansion under Rabi-Summer groundnut in southern States; expansion of soyabean cultivation during Kharif season in Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan; introduction of sunflower in non-traditional areas during summer season, cultivation of Toria as catch crop in northern States. With regard to Pulses, cultivation of early maturing Arhar varieties in northern States, promotion of cultivation of summer pulses, expansion of area of moong and urd in rice fallows in southern and eastern States, area expension of Lentil in rice fallows in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar etc. are being taken up.

For increasing the production level, programmes of production and supply of good quality seed increased use of phosphatic and other fertilizers, distribution of rhzybium culture, supply of improved farm implements propagation of improved farm technology, adoption of plant protection measures etc. are being proposed.

Task force scheme for employment in Punjab

2069. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the previous Government had formulated a Task Force Scheme for providing employment to the youth in the border areas of Punjab;

(b) if so, what were the details thereof, including the date of finalisation of the scheme;

(c) whether the said scheme was shelved by the State Government; and

(d) if so, whether any rethinking on the said scheme is going on if so, by when it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (d) As per information received from Government of Punjab, a Scheme of National Task Force had been formulated and it was approved in October, 1989. The scheme envisages recruiting about 10,000 youth from the Border Areas of Amritsar, Ferozepur and Gurdaspur Districts of the State, in a phased manner, for providing training in various training camps, depending upon their educational qualifications, experience and status of physical fitness, and subsequently getting them employed in Govt./Semi-Government/Industrial Institutions, or facilitating their self-employment. The Scheme has been launched on July 31, 1990 by selecting 1000 youth in the first phase for training in various training camps in the State.

Evaluation of crop Insurance Scheme

2070. SHRI PASUMPON THA KIRUTTINAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any evaluation of the performance of the crop insurance scheme introduced in the country in 1985;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the deficiencies noticed if any; and

(c) the steps contemplated by Government to remove the deficiencies and to make it more beneficial for wider section of the rural population?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) to (c) A Group was constituted in December, 1986 under the Chairmanship of an Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation to undertake an indepth and critical review of the functioning of Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme (CCIS). The Group submited its Report in August, 1988.

The deficiencies noticed in the CCIS are voluntary nature of the scheme, adverse selection of areas by the States/U.Ts. implementing it low rates of premia; predominance of rainfed crops like oilseeds, millete & pulses and shortcomings in the crop cutting machinery.

The Government has considered the Group's Report in all its remifications. As regards the actuarial premia, it has been decided to continue the present rates of premia which are tokan in nature (2 per cent of the sum insured for wheat, paddy & millets and 1 per cent of the sum insured or oilseeds and pulses) with an element of 50 per cent subsidisation of premia to be borne equally by the Central and State Governments in respect of small and marginal farmers. It has also been decided not to implement the CCIS on a compulsory basis, because Agriculture is a Stae subject. In order to make the CCIS financially viable the following changes were introduced with effect from Kharif 1988:—

(a) The sum insured would be limited to Rs. 10,000/- per farmer irrespective of the quantum of loan taken by the farmer.

(b) The total sum insured would be limited to 100 per cent of the crop loan.

Besides, from Rabi 1988-89 in addition to these changes, the level of indemnity for various crops was altered as per the following details:—

Category	Variation In yield	Indemnity
Low . .	Upto 15%	90%
Medium	16% to 30%	80%
High . .	Above 30%	60%

Examination of strucure of fertilizer subsidy

2071. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULCULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are examining he structure of fertilizer subsidy estimated at Rs. 8516 crores will a view to reduce it;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when a decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA): (a) to (c) A Working Group has been set up by the Planning Commission to go into the entire gamut of fertilizer subsidy. However, the retention price for the different fertilizer units, on the basis of which the subsidy is paid, is reviewed once in three years. The current retention prices are valid for the period 01-4-1988 to 31-3-1981. It is not possible to give a time frame for a decision as the Working Group is yet to submit their report.

भारतीय राज्य कृषि क्षेत्र निगम

2072. सरदार जगजीत सिंह अरोड़ा:
श्री राम जेठमलानी :

क्या कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सरकार ने राष्ट्रीय बीज निगम के स्थान पर